



## VA NATIONAL CENTER ON HOMELESSNESS AMONG VETERANS

*Research-driven solutions to prevent and end homelessness*

### **Grant and Per Diem - Low Demand Programs (GPD-LD)**

**Purpose:** The purpose of the GPD Low-Demand Initiative is to offer GPD providers an opportunity to revise their program designs using a low demand/harm reduction model to better accommodate chronically homeless Veterans and Veterans who were unsuccessful in traditional treatments.

**Background:** Low Demand Homeless Programs have played an important role in ending homelessness among our nation's Veterans and provide an effective alternative to Veterans who cannot or will not stay clean and sober, or Veterans who have difficulty being fully compliant with their mental health care. Low Demand Homeless Programs are recovery programs that:

- Provide supportive housing and rely on harm reduction practices
- Serve hard-to-reach and hard-to-engage chronically homeless Veterans with severe mental illness and/or substance use disorders
- Do not require sobriety or compliance with treatment for admission or continued stay
- Serve Veterans who have not been able comply with other homeless programs that require being clean and sober for admission and continued stay and full compliance with mental health care

Developing specialized programs to accommodate chronically homeless Veterans who have difficulty with compliance in traditional homeless programs became a high priority as VA developed plans to end homelessness among Veterans. In FY 2014, The Center, GPD staff, and staff affiliates from the University of South Florida developed an implementation process for a low demand programs specifically tailored to GPD Programs to accommodate this identified need for chronically homeless Veterans. The first site became operational in March 2015, after training and individualized technical assistance was conducted with the staff of the local GPD sites. The low demand programs operate as a separate track within the existing local GPD Program.

**Program data:** Since the first site became operational in March 2015, six sites have become fully operational in Los Angeles, Seattle, and Salt Lake City. Preliminary data indicates that the sites are achieving success in implementation of the model and outcomes indicate a high percentage of the Veterans moving to supportive permanent housing.

If GPD providers are interested in developing a low demand GPD program, please contact Dr. Roger Casey at [roger.casey@va.gov](mailto:roger.casey@va.gov).